

REMARKS

1. Reconsideration and further prosecution of the above-identified application are respectfully requested in view of the amendments and discussion that follows. Claims 1-14 are pending in this application. Claims 1-5 and 9-14 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,568,574 to Tanguay, Jr. et al. Claims 6-8 have been rejected as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but allowable if rewritten in independent form. After a careful review of the claims (as amended), it has been concluded that the rejections are in error and the rejections are, therefore, traversed.

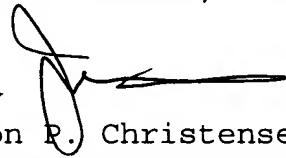
2. Claims 1-14 have been rejected as being anticipated by Tanguay, Jr. et al. In response, claims 1 and 9 have been amended to make clear that the optical ports are photo-transistors, photo-receivers or a combination of photo-transistors and photo-receivers. Support for this limitation may be found in the specification in paragraph [0024]. Claims 1 and 9 have also been amended to include the further limitation that the optical gratings are disposed on a first side of the substrate and the optical array is attached to a second side of the substrate. This limitation is shown in FIG. 4.

As amended, claims 1-5 and 9-14 are now clearly differentiated over Tanguay Jr., et al. For example, the claimed invention is now limited to photo-transistors and/or photo-recievers disposed on an opposing side of the substrate from the gratings. In contrast, Tanguay Jr., et al. is limited to transmissive modulator elements 30, 30a, 30b or to reflective modulator elements 34a, 34b. In

addition, Tanguay Jr., et al. is directed to the use of individual laser diodes 18, instead of arrays of photo-transistors and/or photo-receivers. Since Tanguay Jr., et al. does not show or describe arrays of photo-transmitters and/or photo-receivers on opposing sides of the substrate from a grating, the claims are now clearly differentiated from Tanguay Jr., et al. Since the claims are clearly differentiated from Tanguay Jr., et al. any rejection based upon Tanguay Jr., et al. would now be improper and should be withdrawn.

3. Allowance of claims 1-14, as now presented, is believed to be in order and such action is earnestly solicited. Should the Examiner be of the opinion that a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of the subject application, he is respectfully requested to telephone applicant's undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,
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